United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh Security Message for U.S. Citizens

October 16, 2015

This message provides an update regarding the threat against foreigners that was first announced in the September 28 Security Message for U.S. Citizens. Security agencies in Bangladesh have taken extensive measures aimed at addressing the vulnerability of foreigners. The United States Government greatly appreciates these efforts to protect people from an underlying threat that has unfortunately not diminished, as was made evident by the fatal attacks on two foreign nationals.

Bangladesh police may request information from foreigners, including local home and work addresses and local contact phone numbers, as part of these increased security measures. U.S. citizens who wish to participate in this voluntary police program may enroll with the deputy commissioner of the city's metropolitan police force, the superintendent of police at the district office, or the officer-in-charge at the local police station. Uniformed local police officers, or plainclothes Special Branch officers bearing police identification, might also contact U.S. citizens directly to enroll in this program. U.S. citizens should be aware that participation in any police registration or enrollment program is entirely voluntary.

The Embassy strongly encourages U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bangladesh to take precautions, remain vigilant about their personal security, and be alert to local security developments. Embassy employees continue to observe careful security practices when traveling throughout Bangladesh. U.S. government personnel and their families are still limiting their movements and are prohibited from traveling on foot, motorcycle, bicycle, rickshaw or other uncovered means on all public thoroughfares and sidewalks. They are also restricted from attending large gatherings in Bangladesh, including events at international hotels, unless they have obtained permission from the Embassy's security office.

For further information:

- See the <u>State Department's travel website</u> for the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information.
- Enroll in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (<u>STEP</u>) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the <u>U.S. Embassy in Dhaka</u>, Bangladesh, located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212, at (88) (02) 5566-2000, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Weekends and After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is (88) (02) 5566-2000 and press "0" and ask for the duty officer.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Dhaka, Bangladesh